

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 OIC-02 /133 W

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R 211100Z JUN 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 184

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY QYITO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS STR, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE

PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: MTN TROPICAL PRODUCTS MEETING, JUNE 16-19

1. SUMMARY: TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES FOR NEXT PHASE
CENTRAL ISSUE AT TROPICAL PRODUCTS MEETING, JUNE 16-19.
TWENTY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MADE OPENING STATEMENTS.
MOST CALLED FOR CONCRETE TIMETABLE PERMITTING CONCLUSION
OF NEGOTIATIONS BY END 1975 AND FOR PLURILATERAL CONSUL-
TATIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT ANY COUNTRY WITH EXPORT
INTEREST IN A PRODUCT TO PARTICIPATE. DC'S EMPHASIZED
CAREFUL ROUND OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS MUST PRECEDE PLURI-
LATERAL TALKS, AND STRESSED DIFFICULTY OF SETTING EXACT DATES.
BASIS FOR AGREEMENT WAS LAID BY U.S. STATEMENT ON
SECOND DAY CALLING FOR FLEXIBLE, PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO
CONSULTATIONS, WHICH COULD COVER SUBSTANCE AS WELL AS
CLARIFICATION AND COULD INCLUDE BROADER-BASED DISCUS-
SIONS BETWEEN MORE THAN TWO INTERESTED COUNTRIES, IF
APPROPRIATE. SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE CONTACTS WITH KEY DC
AND LDC DELEGATIONS FACILITATED AGREEMENT. NEXT MEETING
SCHEDULED WEEK OF OCTOBER 20. OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES
DISCUSSED BUT CARRIED OVER TO NEXT MEETING WERE GSP/MFN
AND PRICE STABILIZATION.

2. THREE RESTRICTED MEETINGS WERE HELD IN ORDER TO COMPROMISE
OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS ON QUESTIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN PLURI-
LATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND TIMING FOR NEXT MEETING AND SUBMISSION
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OF OFFERS. RESTRICTED GROUP CONSULTATIONS RESULTED IN
AGREEMENT THAT "NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE
FOR THIS PURPOSE (PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS)
WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE PARTICIPANTS CONCERNED."
WITH RESPECT TO TIMING OF AND PRESENTATION
OF OFFERS, THE CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP PROVIDES THAT
THE GROUP "WILL EXAMINE ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEED TO
ESTABLISH A TIMETABLE FOR THE PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE

CIRCULATION OF INITIAL OFFERS." COMPLETE TEXT OF
CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP AND RECORD OF DECISIONS BEING
SENT SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

3. GENERAL LDC POSITION: SOME 20 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
IN THREE DAY SESSION EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE
PAST WORK OF THE GROUP, BUT UNANIMOUSLY DESIRED THE
PACE OF THE WORK TO BE ACCELERATED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE
CONCRETE RESULTS BY END OF 1975. PROPOSED TIMETABLE
CHARACTERIZED THIS ACCELERATED PACE CALLING FOR
TERMINATION BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BY JULY 15, OFFERS
BY SEPTEMBER 15, WITH TARGET DATE FOR A TROPICAL PRODUCTS
PACKAGE OF DECEMBER 31. LDC'S DESIRED BOTH BILATERAL
AND PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY.
THEY ENVISIONED PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS TO INCLUDE
LDC'S HAVING TRADE INTEREST IN ONE ITEM WITH THE DC
IMPORTER, WHETHER OR NOT EACH LDC HAD MADE REQUEST.
KEY LDC'S STRESSED THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT BEGIN
UNTIL OFFERS WERE MADE.

4. SOME INSISTED ON SEPTEMBER MEETING IN ORDER TO
DISCUSS DETAILS HOW TO PROVIDE SPECIAL AND PRIORITY
TREATMENT AND TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS REQUIRING
MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS SUCH AS STABILIZATION OF EXPORT
EARNINGS AND PRICE PROBLEMS. SPECIFIC COUNTRY POSITIONS
FOLLOW.

5. INDIA (CHADHA) STATED THAT IN SUBMITTING REQUESTS
INDIA HAD TAKEN "TROPICALITY" INTO ACCOUNT AND BELIEVED
THAT TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE
PRODUCTS IN NATURAL, SEMIPROCESSED AND PROCESSED
STATES. PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN BOTH TEMPERATE AND
TROPICAL ZONES, INCLUDING COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS, I.E.
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(A) FISH, (B) CANE SUGAR, (C) TOBACCO, AND (D) VEGETABLE
OILS/OIL SEEDS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
INDIA STRESSED NEED FOR JOINT PARTICIPATION IN
CONSULTATIONS BY LDC'S INTERESTED IN PARTICULAR
PRODUCTS AND IN THIS CONTEXT THE NEED TO CIRCULATE
OFFERS. INDIA INDICATED ITS WISH AT NEXT MEETING
IDENTIFY AND CONSIDER COMMODITY PROBLEMS REQUIRING
MULTILATERAL ACTION PURSUANT TO PARA 1(VII) AND 1(IX)
OF MTN/TP/1.

6. BRAZIL (MEDEIROS) DREW ATTENTION TO BRAZIL REQUEST
LIST OF ONLY SEVEN PRODUCTS STRESSING THIS IMPROVED
POSSIBILITY OF FINDING SOLUTIONS. IN ARGUMENT FOR
PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BRAZIL NOTED ITS OBVIOUS
INTEREST IN WIDER RANGE OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS THAN

INDICATED BY LIST (E.G. COFFEE NOT INCLUDED BRAZIL LIST).
CALLED ATTENTION TO ITS PROPOSAL MADE IN TARIFFS GROUP
FOR BINDING OF A FEW PREFERENTIAL TARIFF RATES BELOW
THE MFN RATES IN SPECIAL GATT SCHEDULE FOR LDC'S BUT
EMPHASIZED BRAZIL NOT ASKING BINDING OF ALL GSP ITEMS
OR AT EXISTING GSP LEVELS. HE RECOGNIZED SUCH SPECIAL
GATT SCHEDULE FOR LDC'S WOULD DEPART FROM PRESENT GATT
RULES BUT CALLED FOR NEW DEPARTURES. BRAZIL'S GENERAL
VIEW OF THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WAS THAT THEY SHOULD
BE GEARED TOWARD THE PRESENTATION OF OFFERS AND NOT
BE LIMITED TO CLARIFYING REQUESTS AND TECHNICAL QUESTIONS.

7. MEXICO (TELLO) STATED SPECIAL AND PRIORITY
TREATMENT MEANT DC RESPONSE BEFORE SUMMER RECESS TO
REQUESTS, AND THAT RESULTANT CONCESSIONS SHOULD GO INTO
EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. OFFERS SHOULD BE MADE ON A NON-
RECIPROCAL BASIS. AT NEXT MEETING THE WORK OF THE
GROUP SHOULD BEGIN TO CONSIDER MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS
TO PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED DURING PREPARATORY PHASE
INCLUDING CUSTOMS PROCEDURES, VARIABLE LEVIES, SEASONAL
TAXES, MARKET ACCESS, PRICES, SPECIAL PREFERENCES, AND
EFFECTIVE PROTECTION.

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PASS STR, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE

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8. NIGERIA (ADEWAKUN) PRAISED THE EC'S STATED INTENTION TO GIVE NONRECIPROCAL PREFERENTIAL CONCESSIONS TO LDC'S THROUGH GSP (SEE BELOW) AND CALLED UPON OTHER DC'S, PARTICULARLY THE U.S. AND JAPAN TO DO LIKEWISE. HE STRESSED THAT DC'S REMAIN PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS FOR MANY PRODUCTS OF WHICH LDC'S ARE MAJOR SUPPLIERS. WITH RESPECT TO PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS NIGERIA SOUGHT SECURITY FROM JOINT LDC PARTICIPATION.

9. ECUADOR (HERRERA) NOTED THAT ANDEAN COUNTRIES WOULD SHORTLY SUBMIT REQUEST LISTS. OTHER COUNTRIES INDICATING THEY WILL SUBMIT REQUEST LISTS INCLUDE THE

CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, PAKISTAN, BURMA, BANGLADESH, AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA. ECUADOR NOTED THAT NO THIRD COUNTRY (READ U.S.N CANADA AND AUSTRALIA) SHOULD PREVENT CONCESSIONS BY OTHER DC'S UNDER GSP.

10. GENERAL DC POSITION: DC'S GENERALLY AGAINST UNREALISTIC TIMETALBE. MOST PLACED EMPHASIS ON BEGINNING WITH BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS RECOGNIZING NEED FOR BROADER-BASED DISCUSSIONS AT APPROPRIATE STAGE ON APPROPRIATE PRODUCTS. SOME DC'S ALSO DISAGREED WITH LDC'S ON PARTICIPATION IN PLURILATERAL CONSULTATION EXPRESSING DIFFICULTY WITH CONCEPT OF NON-REQUESTING COUNTRIES IN SUCH CONSULTATIONS. ON TIMELY DC'S THOUGHT COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE AMONG THEMSELVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHEN PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. DC'S GENERALLY AGREED ON AIMING FOR EARLY CONCRETE RESULTS BUT WISHED TO LEAVE PROCEDURES AND TIMING FLEXIBLE.

11. ON GSP, EC STATED IT WOULD CONSIDER OFFERING GSP CUTS ON TROPICALS WHICH COMPETE WITH TEMPERATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, THOUGH OFFERING MFN CUTS ON NONCOMPETITIVE TROPICALS. EC STATEMENT EVOKED FAVORABLE REACTIONS FROM CERTAIN LDC'S. CANADA, AUSTRALIA, AND U.S. EMPHASIZED THE VALUE OF MFN REDUCTIONS OVER UNILATERAL, UNBOUND GSP CUTS, AND ARGUED SUCH CUTS NOT APPROPRIATE IN NEGOTIATIONS OF KIND CONTEMPORATED BY TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP. RELATION OF GSP TO MFN WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLVED ELSEWHERE.

12. US (LANDE) STATED THAT IT REGARDED INTENSIVE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AS THE NEXT PHASE IN THE GROUP'S WORK AND SUGGESTED THE NEXT MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN NOVEMBER PRIOR TO THE TNC MEETING. U.S. SUPPORTED CONCEPT OF AN EARLY TROPICAL PRODUCTS PACKAGE AND WISHED TO FOCUS GROUP'S WORK IN FALL ON PROCEDURES TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE. AS AN INDIRECT RESPONSE TO EC EMPHASIS ON USING GSP TO GRANT CONCESSIONS IN TROPICAL PRODUCT NEGOTIATIONS, U.S. REVIEWED IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS GSP AND STRESSED UNILATERAL GRANT NATURE OF GSP CONCESSIONS AND TEMPORARY AND UNBOUND CHARACTER OF ALL GSP SYSTEMS. U.S. THOUGHT THAT BROADER-BASED DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE USEFUL AT A LATER STAGE TO ENLARGE, BETTER DEFINE AND BALANCE A TROPICAL PRODUCTS PACKAGE, AND WAS OPEN ON QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION.

13. IN ADDITION TO MAKING REFERENCE TO PARAGRAPH 5 OF TOKYO DECLARATION IN OPENING STATEMENT, U.S. TOOK OPPORTUNITY IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS TO RAISE MATTER WITH NUMBER OF LDC'S. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS MOST OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SUBMITTED FAIRLY SHORT LISTS OF REQUESTS (SUCH AS BRAZIL AND INDIA) INDICATED THAT ITEMS INCLUDED ARE OF HIGH PRIORITY WHILE THOSE WITH LONGER LISTS (SUCH AS ASEANS) ARE SHOPPING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR EX OUTS AS OPPOSED TO DUTY REDUCTIONS FOR ENTIRE LINE ITEM. THEY HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THEY COULD GIVE RECIPROCITY LINKED SPECIFICALLY TO TROPICAL PRODUCTS BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS OUTSIDE OF THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS AREA.

14. EC (ABBOTT, PERROIT), ON QUESTION OF TIMING, STRESSED INVOLVED PROCEDURE OF CONSULTING WITH REQUESTING COUNTRIES, ACP COUNTRIES, AND MEMBER STATES. ON TARIFF CONCESSIONS EC IN DETAILED STATEMENT INDICATED THAT MFN REQUESTS NO PROBLEM FOR PRODUCTS SUPPLIED PRINCIPALLY OR ENTIRELY BY LDC'S. HOWEVER, ON PRODUCTS WHERE LDC'S COMPETE WITH DC'S, IN PARTICULAR AGRICULTURAL ITEMS, GSP CONCESSIONS WERE SEEN AS MOST APPROPRIATE IN THAT THEY AVOID BALANCING BETWEEN DC'S. GSP ALSO CITED AS ADVANTAGE OF BEING FLEXIBLE SINCE IT CAN BE IMPROVED WITHOUT NEGOTIATIONS, DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INVOLVE RECIPROCITY, AND REQUIRES PRODUCT BY PRODUCT APPROACH. GSP CUTS WOULD ALSO PREVENT EROSION OF PREFERENTIAL MARGINS. EC STATED IT WOULD NOT CONSIDER BINDING OF GSP BUT REITERATED THAT SYSTEM TO BE EXTENDED BEYOND 1980. EC WAS NEGATIVE ON BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL FOR BINDING OF SPECIAL PREFERENTIAL RATE FOR LDC'S ON FEW ITEMS. EC NOTED THAT IF INCREASED CONSUMPTION WAS MOTIVE FOR REQUESTS ON UNBOUND ITEMS, LDC'S SHOULD MAKE REQUESTS TO COUNTRIES WHERE ROOM FOR INCREASED CONSUMPTION EXISTS (READ EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND OTHER LDC'S).

15. EC INSTRUCTED SESSION ENVISIONED PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS TO BE WIDE IN SCOPE COVERING QUESTIONS OF STABLE PRICES, BUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT WORK IN OTHER FORA. WITH RESPECT TO PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS EC COULD NOT ENVISAGE CONSULTATIONS WITH LARGE GROUP OF COUNTRIES BUT IN SOME CASES SUCH AS ASEAN WITH A REGIONAL GROUP.

16. AUSTRALIA, CANADA, JAPAN AND NORWAY (SPEAKING FOR

NORDICS) GENERALLY FOLLOWED U.S. LEAD AND SUPPORTED
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POSITION IN FAVOR OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS FOR PURPOSES
OF REVIEW AND CLARIFIATION OF REQUESTS AND STRONGLY
OPPOSED LDC DEMANDS FOR PLURILATERAL DISCUSSIONS UNTIL
BILATERAL PHASE COMPLETED AND RESULTS ASSESSED.
AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN WERE PARTICULARLY POINTED IN
EMPHASIZING WILLINGNESS CONSULT WITH ANY COUNTRY
SUBMITTING REQUESTS BUT NOT PREPARED BROADEN BILATERAL
CONSULTATIONS TO INCLUDE ALL INTERESTED EXPORTING
COUNTRIES. JAPAN SUGGESTED THAT WHERE QUESTION OF AN
EXPORTING COUNTRY WITH SUFFICIENT INTEREST IN CONSULTING BUT
WHOSE ITEM NOT ON REQUEST LIST AROSE, THAT ITEM SHOULD
BE ADDED TO REQUEST LIST. SWISS DEL (DUNKEL) THOUGH
NOT OPPOSING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS PHASE THOUGHT IT
DESIRABLE TO LOOK AT REQUESTS ON AS GLOVAL A BASIS AS
POSSIBLE. ALSO FOLLOWING U.S. LEAD, MOST DC DELS
STRESSED NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS BE CONDUCTED ON MFN
BASIS AND THAT NO CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO BINDING GSP.
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